Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10097 081044Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - SEABOARD 747 SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 171372

- 1. DEPUTY SECRETARY HUBBACK AND UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS, BOTH ON HOLIDAY. IN THEIR ABSENCE WE MET AFTERNOON AUGUST 7 WITH OWEN KEMMIS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND IAN BROWN, PRINCIPAL OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL CIVAIR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE (DOT) TO DISCUSS SEABOARD'S 747 SCHEDULE. WE ARGUED FOR REVERSAL DOT RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION USING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL BUT FOUND KEMMIS AND BROWN TO BE ADAMANT.
- 2. BRITISH OFFICIALS REJECTED ARGUMENT THAT LANGUAGE OF ATTACHMENT 5 NOT INTENDED TO COVER CARGO TRAFFIC. THEY ARGUED LANGUAGE READS "TRAFFIC" NOT "PASSENGER TRAFFIC" AND, ALTHOUGH THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ATTACHMENT 5 APPLIES TO ROUTES OTHER THAN ROUTE 2, THEY MAINTAINED THAT FACT THAT BLIND SECTOR RESTRICTION RELATES SPECIFICALLY TO A CARGO AND MAIL ONLY ROUTE STRENGTHENS THEIR CONTENTION THAT ATTACHMENT APPLIES BOTH TO PASSENGER AND CARGO TRAFFIC.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 10097 081044Z

3. AS TO NATURE OF CARGO ABOARD AIRCRAFT, BRITISH

ARGUED THAT WE CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS: IF CARGO IS TO BE REGARDED AS TRANSIT TRAFFIC THEN SEABOARD IS SERVING PARIS AS AN INTERMEDIATE POINT BETWEEN NEW YORK AND LONDON WHICH IS CONTRARY TO ROUTE DESCRIPTION; ON OTHER HAND, IF, IN ORDER TO STAY WITHIN ROUTE DESCRIPTION, FLIGHT ORIGINATES IN PARIS (WHEN FLIGHT NUMBER CHANGES) THEN TRAFFIC ABOARD MUST ALSO BE REGARDED AS ORIGINATING PARIS AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE OFF-LOADED AT LONDON.

- 4. BRITISH UNIMPRESSED BY ARGUMENT THAT SEABOARD'S PROPOSED ROUTING INCREASES AIRCRAFT'S EFFICIENCY. THEY MAINTAIN AIRLINE MUST OPERATE WITHIN TERMS OF AGREEMENT. THEY ADMITTED THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CARGO CAPACITY BUT THEY ARGUED, CAPACITY IS SEPARATE MATTER AND IMMEDIATE ISSUE IS TO ENSURE THAT AIRLINE OPERATING WITHIN TERMS OF AGREEMENT.
- 5. WE POINTED OUT THAT SEABOARD HAD OPERATED SIMILAR SERVICE IN REVERSE DIRECTION FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITHOUT ANY OBJECTION FROM BRITISH. THEY APPEARED SURPRISED AND SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF THIS BUT HAD THEY KNOWN THEY WOULD HAVE DISAPPROVED THE SERVICE.
- 6. KEMMIS AND BROWN WERE CLEARLY SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED THAT THEY HAD NOT ALERTED US TO SEABOARD PROBLEM DURING TALKS JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1 BUT THEY ARGUED (A BIT LAMELY) THAT TALKS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE AND NOT DESIGNED TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. THEY THEN NAMED A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAD NOT EVEN BEEN RAISED DURING TALKS, INCLUDING LAKER, BCAL, CAPACITY, BEHIND-THE-GATEWAY, FIFTH FREEDOM CARRIAGE BY US AIRLINES, CHARTERS, IMBALANCE IN EARNINGS UNDER AGREEMENT, ETC. WE GAINED CLEAR IMPRESSION FROM THESE AND OTHER REMARKS MADE DURING DISCUSSION THAT BRITISH WANTED US TO BE SURE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH CURRENT STATE OF BILATERAL AVIATION RELATIONS AND THEREFORE NOT REPEAT NOT DISPOSED TO DO US ANY FAVORS AT THIS TIME.

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PAGE 03 LONDON 10097 081044Z

7. BRITISH DID NOT GIVE US FINAL NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS, SAYING INSTEAD THEY WOULD CONSIDER THEM OVERNIGHT AND GIVE US ANSWER AUGUST 8. NOTHING THEY SAID, HOWEVER, WOULD CAUSE US TO HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE THAT THEIR ANSWER WOULD BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN UNFAVORABLE.

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